

February 23, 2023

In support of SB 1095.

Dear Chairs Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, and members of the housing committee:

My name is Jallexa Diaz. I am a resident of North Carolina, previous resident of New Haven, Connecticut where my family resides, and where I was born and raised. I am also an ally of the Connecticut Justice Alliance. I am testifying in support of S.B. 1095: An Act Concerning the Use of School Resource Officers In Connecticut Schools.

All students deserve to feel safe, secure and supported in their places of learning. Yet too often our schools rely on policing to keep children in line, rather than funding professionals trained to deliver students necessary developmental and behavioral health resources.

According to research by [Connecticut Voices for Children](#), there's no evidence School Resource Officers (SROs) make students or staff safer, but schools with SROs have more arrests and more expulsions than their peer institutions without SROs.

I believe in our young people, and their ability to co-create safe futures when given the proper fundamental support for growth and well-being. Violence is a systemic issue stemming from a decades-long history of repression, marginalization, removal of financial and educational resources, and other forms of undermining communities of color, poor communities, immigrant communities, and Black communities.

I strongly support S.B. 1095. I hope the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers will vote in favor of this bill. Together, we can build an educational system that is centered on the social-emotional well-being of students through care, resources, learning, and restoration.

Thank you for your time,

Jallexa Diaz